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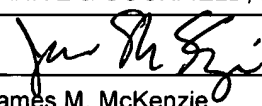
PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

<h1 style="text-align: center;">TRANSMITTAL FORM</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</p>		Application Number	10/815883-Conf. #9073
		Filing Date	March 31, 2004
		First Named Inventor	Iain KALFAS
		Art Unit	3733
		Examiner Name	A. R. Reimers
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	22	Attorney Docket Number	DUQ-002 (DEP5290)

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): <p>A copy of the Declaration and Power of Attorney filed on 09/14/04 and a Return Receipt Postcard</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Remarks</div>		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm Name	LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	James M. McKenzie		
Date	February 16, 2006	Reg. No.	51,146

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Kalfas, *et al.*

Application number: 10/815,883

Filed: March 31, 2004

For: *Spinal Rod Connector*

Attorney Docket No.: DUQ-002 (DEP5290)

Art Unit: 3733

Examiner: Annette R. Reimers

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This Response is filed responsive to the Office Action mailed November 16, 2005, (Paper No. 20051113). In view of the comments set forth below, Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable and in condition for allowance.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.